

Atty Dkt. No.: IRVN-007CON2

USSN: 09/752,639

c) correlating any increase or decrease of the receptor cleaved by the peptide with an ability of the substance to enhance or diminish ~~TRRE~~ TNF receptor releasing activity

34. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide contains SEQ. ID NOS: 147-149, 151, or 153-154, or fragment thereof which causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF receptor is expressed.
35. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:
- i) it comprises a sequence encoded in the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOS: 1-10 or fragment thereof;
 - ii) it is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOS: 1-10;
- and wherein the polypeptide causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF receptor is expressed.
36. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has been obtained by purifying TRRE from human cells that express it endogenously.
37. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has been obtained by expressing a recombinant polynucleotide.
38. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the polypeptide has metalloprotease activity.
39. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOS: 1-10 or fragment thereof.

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40. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1-10.
41. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof
42. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof
43. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof
44. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof
45. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof
46. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof
47. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.
48. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.
49. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.

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50. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.
51. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.
52. *(Withdrawn)* The screening method of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.
53. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with p55 TNF receptor in step a).
54. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with p75 TNF receptor in step a).
55. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with a cell expressing p55 TNF receptor in step a).
56. *(Previously added)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the substance is incubated with a cell expressing p75 TNF receptor in step a).
57. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the measuring of ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor cleaved in step b) comprises measuring binding capacity for TNF on the surface of the treated cell.
58. *(Currently amended)* The screening method of claim 33, wherein the measuring of ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor cleaved in step b) comprises measuring the concentration of soluble ~~TNF-R~~ TNF receptor in culture medium from the treated cell.